PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

After a Battle Royal the Measure is Finally Passed by the House.

FOURTEEN VOTED AGAINST IT

No One Can Predict What the Bill's Fate Will Be in the Senate-Stone Bill Fails.

Lansing, Mich., April 14.-The most Important result accomplished since my last communication is the passage by the house of the general primary election law. It was a battle royal while the bill was under discussion, or as much so as such a one-sided controversy could be. The opponents of the measure put up a game fight and went down with their colors tlying. They were not very numerous, however, as only 14 votes were recorded against the bill on the final show down. Some who opposed the bill during the discussion voted for it when it was apparent that it would pass by a decisive majority. There is no doubt that quite a number of representatives voted for the bill, notwithstanding the fact that its provisions do not appeal to their judgment. Their action was a recognition of what to them seemed to be a demand on the part of their constituents for this particular measure.

Has Not Many Friends.

The bill is now in the hands of the senate committee on elections and no one can predict just when it will be reported out or what shape it will be in when it does make its reappearance. The bill has not as many friends in the upper house as in the lower, in proportion to membership, and scarcely anyone has faith to believe that it will pass the senate as it came from the house. In its present shape the measure abolished political caucuses and conventions of every name and nature. The indications are that a majority of the senate will not agree to any bill that does not retain the state convention system. The majority appears to be willing to provide that all nominations, except of candidates for state offices, be made under the primary system and that delegates to state conventions be selected in the same manner. They will insist, however, on retaining state conventions, That is the present outlook.

The senate has refused to pass the The vote by which the bill failed of passage has, however, been reconsidered and the bill tabled, so that another attempt can be made to put it through. It is believed that some of those who voted against the bill did so under a misapprehension of the facts. the principal argument against the bill being the seeming inconsistency of the commissioner in so strenuously advocating reforestration and at the same time seeking for authority to sell standing timber and have it removed from the land. In the first place forestry contemplates the harvesting of the crop of timber just as much as it does the growing of it. It contemplates that this crop shall be treated just as any other crop is treated, and it would be a poor argument to say that outs should not be cut because the crop would have to be sown again next year.

No Power to Remove Timber. Aside from this the fact is that, under existing laws, there is absolutely no power vested in any state authority to remove tlmber from state lands under any circumstances. For instance if fire sweeps through state timber and damages it so that it must be cut at once if anything is to be realized from it, the state officials having charge of the lands are com-, pelled to sit idly by and see the timber rot. They have no authority to save it. What actually happens in a majority of these cases is that trespassers come along and cut and remove the timber, and then the commissioner is privileged to get after these offenders and bring them to time. Exnetly the same thing is true where wind runs through a tract of state timber. Then again, in many instances the state has a little timber so scattered over lands that the latter are not valuable enough to attract investors who are after lands for the timber alone, and the lands are not valuable for agricultural purposes after the timber has been removed. In the opinion of the state officials the only way in which the state can ever realize anything from these lands will be by selling the timber. It is all well enough to talk about having trespass agents to protect these lands from trespassers, but practical experiience has demonstrated that in order to fully protect those lands it would be necessary to have a trespass agent on about every 80 acre tract. The bill provides that the lands shall first be offered at public sale and if not disposed of at the end of that period, the authorities are at liberty to sell the timber under such regulations, as the board of control of state swamp lands may provide.

Bill in Interests of the Blind.

The senate committee on state affairs has made a favorable report on a bill which has the support of all the blind people of the state and which is being actively pushed by the Michigan Blind People's General Welfare association. The bill provides for the establishment of a working home or place for the instruction of adult blind persons. It is urged in support of the bill that fully two-thirds of the

present blind population of the state became sightless after reaching the adult age, and too late to obtain admission to the state school for the blind, and furthermore that there are now in the state more than 200 adult blind persons who are supported by the state. The bill provides for the instruction of adult blind persons of good character for a limited period in such trades, callings and branches of useful leaning as will enable them to contribute toward their own support. After such necessary course has been enjoyed it is designed that the home shall furnish employment and supply board and lodging at cost to such persons as cannot successfully maintain themselves at their own homes or by personal enterprises. It is set forth that many of the blind are homeless and have neither the capital nor business ability to enable them to succeed in enterprises of their own, but who would be glad to earn their own support if employment were afforded them at reasonable wages in an institution of the kind proposed in this bill. Several states, including California, Connecticut, Illinois and Pennsylvania, have such institutions and they have proved to be a great help to the blind of those states, and also to the states themselves.

Final Adjournment Talk.

The question of final adjournment is being seriously advocated, and the leaders in both houses have taken the matter up in earnest, their hope being to hustle business along so that the end of the session may be reached at the earliest possible day. A few nights ago a conference was held and this matter discussed. Most of those present were in favor of a resolution fixing May 7, the time for quitting business by the houses and May 14 for final adjournment, the Interim being allowed to give the governor an opportunity to dispose of all measures passed during the final days of business. Some of those present thought the work could hardly be gotten out of the way by the first week in May, and it is not improbable that a week later will be the time agreed upon. Likely an agreement will be reached during the present week.

Several good roads enthusiasts were before the joint committee on roads and bridges a few evenings ago in behalf of creating a state bureau of highways and a state highway commission- is proper for me to add that I laid beer. They also arged the submission fore the president the information to the people of a proposition to amend which I had in my possession and the constitution so as to empower the that he fully approved of the action legislature to appropriate money for proposed by me, the improvement of public highways. While it will be necessary to amend the constitution before state aid can be granted localities and nothing can be done in this direction by the pres-Stone bill which authorizes the sale ent legislature further than submitting ing account of an effort made by Great by the commissioner of the state land | the proposition to the people, the bill office of the timber on state lands. | mentioned makes an appropriation of \$20,000 for the maintenance of a bureau and meeting the expenses of the proposed state commissioner, holding is contained in the forthcoming volschools of instruction in road-making, ume of Foreign Relations of the Unitetc. Considerable interest in the sub- ed States. The following note was ject was aroused.

Holmes Bill is Amended.

The judiciary committee of the house has amended the Holmes liquor a new arrangement with the governbond bill by making it optional with ment of Guatemala respecting the fortownship boards whether or not they will require sureties on such bonds to ed that the proposed arrangement file schedules of their property. This ought to be acknowledged by the most rather takes the stinger out of the interested powers-Germany, the Unit-The temperance people will strongly object to this amendment and endeavor to secure the passage of the stick to the new arrangement. The measure in the form in which it was imperial German embassy would be originally introduced.

establishment of an additional state ceeding of the above mentioned kind. been won by the friends of the meas. and English governments." pre. This bill was introduced in each house, and the committee on education in each body has reported the posed to join in any collective act measure out with the recommendation | which might bear the aspect of coercive that it do pass. It is provided that pressure upon Guatemala, this governthe location of the institution be left ment would reserve for its citizens dozen or more enterprising cities and be obtained for creditors of any othvillages in the western portion of the er nationality in the adjustment of the state are casting envious eyes in the Guatemalan foreign debt, and the direction of this plum. In fact, some United States minister at Guatemala of the opponents of the measure are will be instructed to advise the Guatewere to be named in the bill, not a the part of the United States." few of its present ardent supporters would lose their interest in it if, indeed, they would not feel impelled to oppose its passage. However, the educational authorities of the state are agreed that there is a bona fide need in the West Indies, Secretary Moody for the proposed school.

Wanted Morning Sessions.

Some of the legislators who feel that work is not progressing as rapidly as it should, made an effort late last week to induce the house to hold morning sessions. Committee chairmen, however, insisted that the mornings were needed for committee work, located in San Luis Potosi, Mex., where and that if two sessions were to be the ambassador says there is no lotheld daily, they be held in the after- tery existing. noon and evening. This put the proposition to sleep, although two evening sessions were held last week. It is probable, however, that the doub- fact that Master Archie Roosevelt has ling up process will be resorted to the measles the usual gathering of at an early day.

establishment of a central bureau for rolling was omitted. receiving and compiling the measurements, descriptions and histories of convicts and to make such information available to circuit judges for use in disposing of convicts before them for sentence, has been signed by Governor Bliss. It has frequently happened that 490. courts have dealt with convicts as though they were first offenders, when it was discovered after they had been let off with light punishment that they Ohio railroad was wrecked at Dillon's were hardened criminals with long crossing, a few miles north of this prison records. It is proposed to guard against impositions of this nature by the tracks where there was a cuivert. maintaining the proposed bureau at The injured are: Mrs. H. S. Straley the state prison at Jackson and sur- and infant child, of Fort Wayne; Mrs. nishing the trial courts of the state Mary Stanley, of Baltimore, and Frank

P. M. Gen. Payne Says, into Alleged Irregularities, Etc., in the P.O.D.

NOT A GUILTY MAN IS TO GET AWAY

And No Innocent Are to Suffer-All the Department's Sleuth Ability Busy.

Washington, April 14.-Postmaster General Payne has given out a statement in which he announces that the investigation of the affairs of the postoffice department will be continued, and that any parties found guilty of wrong-doing will be dealt with summarily. The statement is as follows: "During the months of January and February information and reports reached me which I deemed it for the public interest to investigate, and I, personally, gathered such information and facts as would hable the proper officers of the department to undertake a thorough investigation as to the truth or falsity of these reports.

Payne Is After the Truth. "I directed Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow to take the proper steps to institute the necessary inquiry, using for that purpose the postoffice inspector's division and such other methods as would thoroughly ascertain the truth or falsity of the and with vigor during my absence. advised of the progress made. The investigation will continue, and if any wrong-doing is disclosed the parties summarily dealt with.

President Fully Approves.

the proper remedies will be applied without fear or favor. I inaugurated the investigation with the determination that it should be exhaustive. It

OUR DEBT-COLLECTING POLICY

Sccretary Hay Informs the German Gov-

ernment Regarding That Matter. Washington, April 14.-An interest-Britain and Germany to induce the United States to join with them in forcing a settlement of foreign debts addressed to Secretary Hay:

"The council of foreign bondholders in London which is seeking to make eign debt of that country has suggested States and England-in order to induce the government of Guatemala to much obliged if it could be informed The first round in the fight over whether the United States government the bill appropriating \$40,000 for the would be inclined to join in a pronormal school in western Michigan has should it be adopted by the German

To this Hay replied: "While the government of the United States is indiswith the state board of education, A equal benefits with those which might prone to remark that if the location malan government of this attitude on

Secretary Moody Returns,

Washington, April 14.-Improved in health and with much information regarding United States naval property has returned to Washington from an extended cruise aboard the Dolphin in the Caribbean sea.

Fraudulent Lottery Tickets.

Washington, April 14.—The Mexican ambassador has informed the state department that tickets are being sold in this country for a lottery said to be

Measles in the Roosevelt Family.

Washington, April 14 .- Owing to the cabinet children and other small The Byrns bill providing for the friends at the White House for the egg

Postal Receipts for a Quarter.

Washington, April 14.-The gross receipts of the postal service for the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1902, were \$35,-223,094 and the expenditures \$34,586,-

Wrecked and Four Hurt. Mansfield, O., April 14.-The eastbound limited on the Baltimore and city. The heavy rains had undermined with full data regarding each convict. C. Miller, en route from Emporia, Kan., JAMES V. BARRY .. | to Pittsburg.

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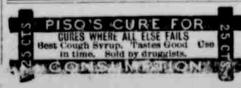
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